Dwyman

62-109060-7349

4/28/79

Dear Barry,

For your memoires.

And for an inside view of what I have come to learn is the real FBI, where themajor preoccupation is generating cover-the-ass paper.

You are a lucky one - no nasty cracks about you, no fabrication under The First Law, Cover-the Bureau's Ass.

Look at all the paperwork connected with the performance of a normal news function.

Ten of the top brass had to take time from fighting crime for this inconsequential matter. The "External Affairs," General Intelligence and (Domestic) Intelligence Divisions had to have copies. And, of course, the Personnel Records Units, which recorded the loyalty of retired Mayor of Sylvester or both.

For the future you may want to recall that the wheels of the FBI turn with semantics as their axle grease. There is merely a technical formulation that enables the denial of the basic fact because there has to have been at least one such communication of the period and should have been more than one from the known and reported threats against JFK. I spent some time on one in two books, with facsimiles of FBI reports and the text of that particular threat, which was bugged. (Remember, the President's motorcade in Miami 11/19/63 was cancelled and he helicoptered to the Interamerican Press convention? The FBI had no problem getting around that - it reported, analyzed and dismissed a different reported Florida threat, an irrelevancy, from Tampa. It was all Florida, wasn't it?)

I doubt there are many major crimes on which the FBI spends as much high-level and field office time as it did once Mark Lane and Jim Garrison started improving upon what the former clerk William S. Walter said. You came into it in 1975. It was then a rehash of 1968.

This is one of several such flaps that the FBI believed tarnished its image so it went to great and ridiculous lengths to polish with paper never intended for distribution or critical examination.

It never considers simple, straightforward truthfulness even when in normal concepts that would be better for the FBI. Its paranoidal view, now computerized and automatic after years of Hoover and under those of his selection, is that it must protect itself from a vengeful everybody else in the world. In this case it apparently feared being charged with negligence even though there was no connection between any of the known threats and the actual crime.

Too bad you didn't think of phoning me. I had an entire chapter than had to be edited out of one of my books on other known threats of the period.

The other large post-Warren period flap was over the Oswald visit to the Dallas Field Office and his leaving an unsealed note for since retired SA James Patrick Hosty, Jr. In that case also everyone in the press and the Congress (which was conned over both flaps) forgot Occam and simple approaches. It was known at FBIHQ as well as throughout the field office contemporaneously and FBIHQ decided on silence, to sit on it. You'd never know it from the records of the intensive FBIHQ investigation for there is no mention of this in all that paper.

I've made separate files of duplicate copies if you ever known of a graduate student looking for a good thesis.

Best wishes

Harold Weisberg